



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the  
United States Attorney  
for the  
District of Nebraska  
**Deborah R. Gilg**

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December 9, 2010

United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg, Assistant Special Agent in Charge L. D. Mathews of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Supervisory Special Agent Kevin Jimerson, Internal Revenue Service, Chief Alex Hayes, Omaha Police Department, Chief Tom Casady, Lincoln Police Department, and Colonel Bryan Tuma, Nebraska State Patrol announce the following information for the attention of the media:

**Event Triggering this Release:**

Lee A. Weinstein was sentenced by the Honorable Lyle E. Strom, United States District Judge, on December 9, 2010. Weinstein was convicted of one count of conspiracy to distribute more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana and one count of money laundering. He was ordered to serve 180 months in prison on each count, to be served concurrently. Weinstein was the leader/organizer of a drug trafficking operation with ties to Nebraska, Arizona, California and Mexico. At the time of his March, 2010, arrest agents were able to attribute over 13,000 pounds of marijuana and 2.9 million dollars to Weinstein's drug operation. Agents in Nebraska and Arizona have seized over \$400,000 and numerous vehicles, including a 1967 Cessna--U206B, as part of this investigation.

**Name of Defendant:** Lee A. Weinstein

**AKA:**

**Age:** 32

**City of residence:** Omaha

**Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty** (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Conspiracy to distribute marijuana, 10 years to life imprisonment, up to a \$4,000,000 fine, or both imprisonment and fine, not less than 5 years of supervised release and a \$100 special assessment and Money Laundering 0 to 20 years imprisonment, up to a \$500,000 fine or twice value of "property," or both imprisonment and fine, not less than 3 years of supervised release and a \$100 special assessment

**Specific Location of Alleged Crime:** Omaha, Nebraska

**Location of Arrest:** Omaha, Nebraska

**Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:** Marijuana

**Others Charged in Same Scheme:**

Kurt Allen - Sentenced on May 7, 2010 to 46 months.

William Arendt - Sentenced on April 3, 2009 to 60 months.

Robert Crouse - Sentenced on March 13, 2009 to 60 months.

Tyler Forke - Jury Trial scheduled January 24, 2011.

Dave Herman - Sentenced on December 8, 2010 to 60 months.

Troy Hollenbeck - Sentenced on August 18, 2010 to 60 months.

Jonathan Hunt - Sentenced on August 18, 2010 to 70 months.

Doug Jennings - Sentenced on March 13, 2009 to 60 months.

Joshua La Boy - Awaiting Sentencing.

Larce Nelson - Sentenced on December 8, 2010 to 60 months.

Braden Palensky - Awaiting Sentencing.

Ben Weinstein - Sentenced on December 2, 2010 to 40 months.

Jon Whitaker - Sentenced on May 7, 2010 to 60 months.

**Relevant Dates:**

**Date of Alleged Crime:** June 1, 2005, and continuing through March 6, 2010

**Federal Arrest Date:** 3/24/10

**Date Complaint Issued:** 3/08/10

**Indictment Returned Date:** 3/17/10

**Initial Appearance Date:** 3/24/10

**Plea or Trial and Date(s):** 9/3/10

**Sentencing Date:** 12/9/10

**Next Court Hearing Type and Date:** None.

**Assigned Magistrate Judge:** F.A. Gossett III

**Held without Bond, or Released from Custody:** Held

**In Continuous Custody Since:** 3/06/10

**Assigned District Court Judge:** Lyle E. Strom for Lee Weinstein, Ben Weinstein and Troy Hollenbeck. Joseph F. Bataillon for the other listed Defendants.

**Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release:** AEB